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SUCCESS STORY

PARENTS BREAKING NEW GROUND IN JORDANIAN KINDERGARTENS



Learning with Mom

“My daughter is pushing me to come everyday. She is so proud of me!”

Ola, Parent Volunteer from Hafsa School, Jordan

“Volunteers have an important role inside the kindergarten classroom. They assisted the teacher in implementing different activities and tend to individual children's needs and group processes”

Sabha, teacher in Al-Jawasrah School, Shouna, South Jordan

“I started understanding how important it is to give attention to my children's education and how important their education in the kindergarten really is.”

Fatima, Parent Volunteer from Al-Jabal School, Jordan

For the first time in Jordan's Government kindergartens, parents are being actively encouraged to take part in the lives of their children while at school. In support of the Ministry of Education's Education Reform for the Knowledge Economy (ERfKE) program, the USAID funded ERFKE Support Project (ESP) has helped the Ministry to develop the Parent Involvement Initiative which will fundamentally change the relationship between parents and the educational system, with children as the ultimate beneficiaries.

Previously, Jordanian parents have not been encouraged to take an active part in the life of kindergartens and their children's education. Ministry of Education Kindergarten Teachers are solely responsible for an average of 25 children per class. To implement the kindergarten program and curriculum effectively, teachers needed assistance in providing the best educational and social experiences. The Parent Involvement Initiative seeks to get parents actively involved and participating in kindergarten education, supporting the teacher and enabling her to ensure that quality time is spent with each child.

This pilot program has been welcomed by Ministry of Education officials who are planning to roll out the initiative to all public kindergartens in Jordan and their views are echoed by parents who are very keen to ensure their children get the best possible start in life through early education.